

the fruits of your labors have ripened and the Municipal League has become indisputably the spokesman for municipal government in our State.

It was satisfying to me to note the success you had with your legislative program in this first session of the General Assembly of my term as Governor. I hope the constitutional amendment authorizing your municipalities to utilize the resources of the vast Federal Urban Renewal Program may, in years ahead, aid you in your effort to make your cities more attractive and more prosperous. I was gratified, too, that you were able to obtain funds with which to establish your Municipal Technical Advisory Service, and that the resolution you sponsored to set up a commission to study city-county fiscal relations was adopted. It was a pleasure to me to be able to sign it.

Your Technical Advisory Service, I am told, is ready to go into operation. Reports that have come to me have indicated that it is in need of a larger staff and a larger budget to do the job that is expected of it. If that be the case, I should think that in a few years it will obtain both.

On occasions such as this when men gather to discuss affairs they have in common, it is the custom nowadays to speak of matters at hand in terms of problems and their solutions With all the problems that surround us today, I would hesitate to attempt ranking them in any order of gravity or enormity. But I will say that you who grapple with the problems of cities—the pains of growth on the one hand and the agonies of decay on the other—can make out a good case that yours is a problem with a very high ranking. Your problem has been stated so many times by so many people that it needs no lengthy restatement by me.

The automobile provided the inducement to people to flee the cities and take up residence in the fields and forests which surround them. The automobile which returns the expatriated urbanite daily to his place of business or employment in the city has congested streets to the point that the city becomes increasingly unattractive as a place in which to live, do business or have fun. And so, people not initially lured by forests and fields are constrained to join the exodus, leaving behind them houses which soon fall into dilapidation because they are no longer livable. That, in synopsis, is the tragedy of the urban slum. Let us look at the coin on its reverse side. Houses spring up in forests and fields like dandelions